

This template for a state party resolution shows how to include facts specific to your state with general information. In this sample language, we have included some facts about Arizona. When you prepare your own resolution, either delete the facts that are specific to Arizona, or use the cited sources to find similar figures for your state.

To: [Arizona Democratic Party]
From: [An Arizona person or persons], Family Caregiver Platform Project
Date: [Date]
RE: Proposal to pass a “Support for Family Caregivers” resolution by the [Arizona Democratic Party]

I represent the Family Caregiver Platform Project, a non-partisan group that seeks to raise awareness of family caregiving issues in Arizona and nationally. I respectfully request that the [Arizona Democratic Party] pass a resolution regarding “Family Caregiving” containing specific policy recommendations. For more information about our goals, visit our website at caregivercorps.org.

Proposed Resolution

WHEREAS — Family caregivers play a vital role in enabling frail seniors, people with serious health challenges, persons with special needs, and others requiring assistance with activities of daily living to remain in their homes; and

WHEREAS — Enabling people to remain at home for as long as possible is both more compassionate and more affordable than institutional care, which comes at a high cost, often supported by taxes; and

WHEREAS — in Arizona, 804,000 family caregivers provide 749 million hours of care, an economic value of \$9,430,000,000 valued at \$12.00 per hour^[1]; and

WHEREAS — By 2020 Arizonans age 60+ will make up one quarter of the state’s population, with the 85+ group the fastest growing group, expected to increase 141 percent by 2020^[3]; and

WHEREAS — Over 30 percent of adults 60+ have one or more disabilities, including disabilities that affect self care^[4]; and

WHEREAS — Medical advances allow millions to live much longer with chronic illnesses, increasing the requirement for caregiving; and

WHEREAS — The stress imposed on families by caregiving is a health risk factor that warrants attention as a Public Health issue; and

WHEREAS — Caregiving imposes significant financial burdens on both caregivers and employers, affecting the economy and contributing to the impoverishment of families^[5]; and

WHEREAS — Nationally, caregiver services were valued at \$470 billion per year in 2013^[6]; and

WHEREAS — The Alzheimer’s Association estimates that one in nine Americans aged 65 and older are affected with the condition.^[7]

Therefore

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of **Arizona**, the Senate concurring, that:

1. That we recognize and support the important role that family caregivers play in **Arizona**.
2. That we support policies and initiatives to provide the support and training needed to make family caregiving more feasible, affordable, and effective.
3. That we encourage efforts at the state and county level to analyze population demographic trends to determine both current and future service requirements for care recipients and caregivers, and to permit data-driven policy and program recommendations about our aging populations and the workforce development needed to empower those who need care to heal, age and live in place.
4. That we encourage employers to establish policies that recognize the impact that caregiving can have on workers, and encourage employers to find ways to support their workers during difficult family times.
5. That we encourage the creation of volunteer “Caregiver Corps” to provide non-medical assistance and companionship to frail elders at no public expense.

References

^[1] AARP Public Policy Institute. *Valuing the Invaluable 2015 Update: Undeniable Progress but Big Gaps Remain*. <http://www.aarp.org/ppi/info-2015/valuing-the-invaluable-2015-update.html>. Accessed August 11, 2015. According to this report, the number of caregivers in **Arizona** is 804,000, providing 749 million hours of care. If valued at \$12.00 per hour, the economic value of this care would be \$9,430,000,000. This does include caregivers of all populations.

^[2] **Arizona** Caregiver Coalition. **Arizona** State University video “**Arizona** Horizon” segment on Family Caregivers. <http://www.azcaregiver.org/family-caregiver-and-the-arizona-caregiver-coalition-channel-8-video/>. Broadcast on November 23, 2011. Accessed August 14, 2015.

^[3] **Arizona** Department of Economic Security: Division of Aging and Adult Services. *Arizona State Plan on Aging: Federal Fiscal Years 2011-2014*.

https://www.azdes.gov/InternetFiles/Reports/pdf/Aging_20_Plan_2011_2014.pdf.
Published in 2010. Accessed August 14, 2015.

[4] United States Census Bureau. West, L., Cole, S., Goodkind, D., He, W. *65+ in the United States: 2010 Special Studies Current Population Reports*. Page 3. Published June 2014. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p23-212.pdf>. Accessed September 9, 2015.

[5] MetLife Mature Market Institute. *The MetLife Study of Caregiving Costs to Caregivers: Double Jeopardy for Baby Boomers Caring for Their Parents*. June, 2011. <https://www.metlife.com/mmi/research/caregiving-cost-working-caregivers.html#key-findings>. Accessed August 19, 2015. For men the total individual amount of lost wages due to leaving the labor force early and/or reduced hours of work because of caregiving responsibilities equals \$89,107. The estimated impact of caregiving on lost Social Security benefits is \$144,609. Adding in a conservative estimate of the impact on pensions at \$50,000, the total impact equals \$283,716 for men, or \$303,880 for the average male or female caregiver 50+ who cares for a parent.

[6] Choula, R., Feinberg, L., Houser, A., Reinhard, S. *Valuing the Invaluable: 2015 Update: Undeniable Progress but Big Gaps Remain*. AARP Public Policy Institute. Published July 2015. <http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2015/valuing-the-invaluable-2015-update-new.pdf>. Accessed August 19, 2015.

[7] Alzheimer's Association. *2015 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*. Page 16. https://www.alz.org/facts/downloads/facts_figures_2015.pdf. Accessed August 19, 2015.

Additional national statistics that can be included if desired:

- 43.5 million Americans provide unpaid care to someone who is ill, disabled or aged.[A]
- The number of people 65+ will more than double between the years 2000 and 2030, increasing from 35 million to over 70 million.[B]
- Individuals 85 years and older, the oldest old, are one of the fastest growing segments of the population. In 2012, there were an estimated 5.9 million people 85+ in the United States. This figure is expected to increase to 19.4 million by 2050. This means that there could be an increase from 1.6 million to 6.2 million people age 85 or over with severe or moderate memory impairment in 2050.[C]

FOOTNOTES

[A] National Alliance for Caregiving. *Caregiving in the U.S. 2015*. Research report published jointly by the National Alliance for Caregiving and the AARP. Published June 2015. <http://www.caregiving.org/caregiving2015/>. Accessed July 21, 2015.

[B] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. *Administration on Aging: Aging Statistics*. http://www.aoa.acl.gov/Aging_Statistics/index.aspx. Accessed August 19, 2015.

[C] Family Caregiver Alliance. What is Long-Term Care? *Selected Long-term Care Statistics: Family and Informal Caregivers*. <https://caregiver.org/selected-long-term-care-statistics>. Accessed August 19, 2015.